(c) No, Sir.

(d) The need for contacting other country does not arise as the existing contract with Russia is still valid.

Reforms in Defence Forces

1135. SHRI AMIRALAM KHAN: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware about the unnecessary delay in most urgent reforms in the defence forces *viz.* change in size of all the three wings of defence forces, better training and equipment, adequate pay scales and facilities to the officers and other defence personnel etc.;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) by when Government will achieve the objective of organizational reforms and modernization etc. in the structure of defence forces in order to meet long term defence challenges?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) to (c) There is no unnecessary delay in reforms relating to defence forces. Organizational reforms ai;*A* modernization of defence forces are continuing processes depending upon the specific requirements and operational necessity.

Resignations by Pilots of Air Force 136. SHRI T.T.V.

DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of pilots of Air Force have resigned or left the service recently;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken to ensure that they do not leave the service?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) and (b) There has been no instance of large number of pilots of the Indian Air Force (IAF) leaving the service.

The pilots of the IAF are granted premature retirement/resignation on case to case basis in accordance with extant Government policy.

(c) The improvement in the job profile of the pilots is a continuous process keeping in view the job specific requirements and operational necessity.

Air journeys by former PMs and Ministers in IAF planes

1137. SHRI JAI PARKASH AGGARWAL: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether ex-Prime Ministers and other ex-Union Ministers have travelled by the planes of Indian Air Force between the period of 1 st January, 2000 to 30th June, 2004;

(b) if so, the year-wise details of the air-travel trips made by them separately; **t**

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi